

Wash., for the Dole Lumber Company. These plants will be of 300 and 700-horsepower each, or a total capacity of 1,000-horsepower; the 300-horsepower plant was constructed last year on Rock Creek, a tributary of the South Fork of Lewis River, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles below the 700-horsepower plant, which will be constructed on Big Tree Creek in the early spring. These plants are primarily for furnishing power to the mills of the Dole Lumber Company, but later will supply current for lighting the town of Yacolt, about 3 miles north. These plants will cost about \$20,000 for the hydraulic installation, being very economical sites for the generation of power.

There has also been designed a 3,000-horsepower plant on the East Fork of the Lewis River for other parties; the intake to be below the mouth of Big Tree Creek, the power-house to be situated near Lucia, a station on the Yacolt branch of the Northern Pacific Railroad. This power will be transmitted to Vancouver, Wash., but it is indefinite when construction will begin on this work. On the North Fork of the Lewis River surveys and plans have been made for a 12,000-horsepower plant. On January 3, 1909, the city of Tacoma voted to sell bonds and construct a hydroelectric power-plant on the Upper Nisqually River, Wash. Construction on a 20,000-horsepower plant will begin the coming spring.

NEWS ITEM.

Mr. George W. Boschke, Chief Engineer of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company, reports that the severe weather during December retarded their work to a considerable extent, especially on bridge foundation work and the like, where concrete is used. He does not favor putting in concrete, especially thin slabs, in cold weather.

On the new Deschutes line the weather was very cold, and while a force of from 2,400 to 2,600 men was maintained, they worked to considerable disadvantage. In fact he thinks on all the work in progress they did not make more than 60 per cent of the progress that should have been made if the weather had been more moderate.

THE WEST UMATILLA RIVER WATER-USERS' ASSOCIATION.

By JOHN W. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

Settlers owning approximately 10,000 acres of land west of Butter Creek near its mouth and west of the Umatilla River have organized a water-users association under the caption of "The West Umatilla River Water-Users' Association." Lands controlled by the members of this association lie under the system of the Western Land and Irrigation Company, which diverts water to feed its 20 miles of canals 1 mile above the diversion site of the Government near Echo, Oreg.

The object of the association is to cooperate with the ditch company in developing the country under its system and bring in settlers, as well as to regulate the use of water among the various users along the Umatilla River and its own canals, so as to avoid friction or litigation. It is probable that measuring gates will be installed this spring, but if a late season should prevent they will be put in after the irrigation season next fall.

The Western Land and Irrigation Company has contracted to furnish water to its patrons during March, April, or May or during flood-water season. The land covered by its canals is very smooth and ideal for alfalfa growing, and this bids to become the leading crop of this district. Already the section at the mouth of Butter Creek under this system is a heavy producer of alfalfa.